

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a receiving microphone; and

a noise collecting microphone, both of the receiving microphone and the noise collecting microphone being [[disposed]]integrally mounted within a microphone assembly at a predetermined portion [[of]] on a vehicle body in such a manner that a sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone is opposite to a sensitivity direction of the noise collecting microphone,

wherein:

the sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone is oriented towards inside of a vehicular passenger compartment to collect vocal signals from the passenger compartment, [[and]]

the sensitivity direction of the noise collecting microphone is oriented towards a space between a vehicle body outer plate and a wall of the vehicular passenger compartment, [[and]]

the noise collecting microphone is disposed in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and the wall of the vehicular passenger compartment, and configured to collect noise in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and the wall of the vehicular passenger compartment,

the noise collecting microphone is insulated to prevent the sound signals from the passenger compartment from entering the noise collecting microphone, and

the sound signals collected by the receiving microphone and the noise collected by the noise collecting microphone are combined to generate an output signal.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the receiving microphone and the noise collecting microphone are attached to a microphone assembly disposed on a ceiling portion of the vehicular passenger compartment.

6. (Previously Presented) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 5, wherein the microphone assembly comprises: a first plate having a first circular center hole into which the receiving microphone is fitted, a second plate juxtaposed to the first plate and having a center hole into which the noise collecting microphone is fitted; a third plate having a third circular center hole with its center point through which a first line denoting the sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone is penetrated; and a fourth plate having a fourth circular center hole with its center point through which a second line denoting the sensitivity direction of the noise collecting microphone is penetrated, both of the first line and the second line being on the same line but the directions thereof being mutually 180° opposite to each other.

7. (Previously Presented) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 6, wherein the microphone assembly further includes engagement portions on side surfaces of the microphone assembly to engage with an interior trim material of a roof portion of the vehicular passenger compartment.

8. (Previously Presented) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 7, wherein the microphone assembly further comprises a bracket having an

attachment hole to a peripheral wall to which the engagement portions of the microphone assembly is engaged and the bracket is fixed to the interior trim material of the roof portion by fixing means, the first line being oriented towards the vehicular passenger compartment and the second line being oriented towards the roof portion of a vehicular outer plate.

9. (Previously Presented) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 7, wherein the microphone assembly further comprises a room mirror base having an attachment hole to which the engagement portion of the receiving microphone is engaged, and an opening formed on a portion of the room mirror base which faces towards the receiving microphone.

10. (Previously Presented) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the noise collecting microphone is connected to an adder via an inverter and the receiving microphone is connected to the adder, and an output of the adder is connected to a voice recognition system mounted in the vehicle.

11. (Previously Presented) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the microphones is connected to an adder via an inverter, and the other one of the microphones is connected to the adder, and an output of the adder is connected to a hand-free telephone apparatus mounted in the vehicle.

12. (Original) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 10, wherein a vehicle speed sensor is connected to a switch to connect the noise collecting

microphone to the inverter when a vehicle speed detected by the vehicle speed sensor is equal to or higher than a predetermined vehicle speed.

13. (Currently Amended) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle, comprising: a receiving microphone configured to input a vocal sound from a speaker; and a noise collecting microphone configured to collectively input a surrounding noise of a speaker, wherein:

both of the receiving microphone and the noise collecting microphone are integrally mounted within a microphone assembly, and are mounted to each other in such a manner that a sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone is different from a sensitivity direction of the noise collecting microphone,

the sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone is oriented towards inside of a vehicular passenger compartment to collect vocal signals from the passenger compartment,

the sensitivity direction of the noise collecting microphone is oriented towards a space between a vehicle body outer plate and a wall of the vehicular passenger compartment, [[and]]

the noise collecting microphone is disposed in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and the wall of the vehicular passenger compartment, and configured to collect noise in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and the wall of the vehicular passenger compartment,

the noise collecting microphone is insulated to prevent the sound signals from the passenger compartment from entering the noise collecting microphone, and

the sound signals collected by the receiving microphone and the noise collected by the noise collecting microphone are combined to generate an output signal.

14. (Currently Amended) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a receiving microphone configured to input a vocal sound from a speaker; and

a noise collecting microphone configured to collectively input a surrounding noise of the speaker, both of the receiving microphone and the noise collecting microphone being integrally mounted within a microphone assembly and attached onto an interior trim material defining a vehicular passenger compartment in such a manner that a sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone is oriented towards inside of the vehicular passenger compartment to collect vocal signals from the passenger compartment, and the noise collecting microphone is oriented towards a space between a vehicular body outer plate and the interior trim material, and configured to collect noise in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and interior trim material, wherein ~~wherein~~:

the noise collecting microphone is disposed in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and the interior trim material,

the noise collecting microphone is insulated to prevent the sound signals from the passenger compartment from entering the noise collecting microphone, and

the sound signals collected by the receiving microphone and the noise collected by the noise collecting microphone are combined to generate an output signal.

15. (Currently Amended) A vocal sound input apparatus for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a receiving microphone; and

a noise collecting microphone;

wherein:

the receiving microphone and the noise collecting microphone are disposed integrally mounted within a microphone assembly at a predetermined portion of a vehicle body, and

a sensitivity direction of the noise collecting microphone is oriented towards a space between a vehicle body outer plate and a vehicular passenger compartment trim material, and configured to collect noise in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and the wall of the vehicular passenger compartment, and a sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone is oriented towards inside of the vehicular passenger compartment to collect vocal signals from the passenger compartment,

wherein the noise collecting microphone is insulated to prevent the sound signals from the passenger compartment from entering the noise collecting microphone, to prevent a vocal sound from being inputted to the noise collecting microphone from the sensitivity direction of the receiving microphone, and to prevent a noise from being inputted to the receiving microphone from the sensitivity direction of the noise collecting microphone,

~~wherein~~ the noise collecting microphone is disposed in the space between the vehicle body outer plate and the vehicular passenger compartment trim material; and

the sound signals collected by the receiving microphone and the noise collected by the noise collecting microphone are combined to generate an output signal.